



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095385
2984.01 (023)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2009-0020-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Joel A. Schmutz
Research Wildlife Biologist
USGS Alaska Science Center
4210 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Proposed Action: Non-intrusive Avian Research in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Joel Schmutz, with the USGS Alaska Science Center has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a floatplane, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of avian research. The applicant had an NPR-A permit to conduct similar work last summer.

The proposed action would authorize the USGS to catch loons for transmitter deployment and to walk shorelines of lakes to look for nesting activity by loons. The applicant proposes to capture up to 18 yellow-billed loons to assess contaminants exposure, and to implant satellite transmitters into adults. There are 15 proposed use sites. Of these, 8 (Plat #'s 17,20, 27, 30, 32, 39, 40, and 90) are the same as those permitted last summer. There would be 4 people catching loons and 6 people doing ground truthing, plus a veterinarian. Up to 60 landings are proposed. The applicant will not be storing fuel on BLM managed lands. They propose to refuel at Atkasuk using the USFWS bulk tank. The crew will have roving tent camps near the lakes within the plots. The work would take place June 23 to July 3rd, 2009.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

Area	Township (North)	Range (West)	Section
11	17	14	23-26,31-35
	16	14	3 to 10
	16	15	1,2,11,12

17	16	12	20-29,32-36	
	15	12	1-5,8-17	
20	16	13	26-35	
	15	13	2-11,14-23	
	15	14	1,12,13,24	
	16	14	25,36	
27	15	11	26-35	
	14	11	2-11,14-23	
	15	12	36	
	14	12	1,12,13,24	
29	14	17	1-5,6-17,20-29	
30	15	10	31-35	
	14	10	2-11,14-23,26-30	
32	14	13	19,30,31	
	13	13	6,7	
	14	14	21-28,33-36	
	13	14	1-4,9-12	
			7-8,17-20,29-	
39	13	18	32	
	13	19	10-15,22-27,34-36	
40	13	10	3-10,15-22,27-30	
			1,2,11-	
	13	11	13,24,25	
60	11	15	1-5,8-12	
	12	15	20-29,32-36	
76	11	19	19,29-32	Excluding private lands
	11	20	23-28,33-36	
	10	20	1-4,9-16	Excluding private lands
	10	19	5-6,7,8,17,18	Excluding private lands
77	10	17	1-4,9-16	
	11	17	21-28,33-36	
	10	16	6,7	
	11	16	19,30,31	
80	10	14	5-8,17-18	
	11	14	29-32	
	10	15	1-3,10-15	
	11	15	25-27,34-36	
90	10	17	20-29,32-36	

	9	17	1-5,8-12
	10	16	31
	9	16	6,7
107	8	17	3-10,15-22
			1,2,11-
	8	18	14,23,24
	9	17	31-35

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated July 2008, and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP/EIS dated 1/22/2004. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled "FF095385 USGS Alaska Science Center Joel Schmutz Stipulations 2009". The authorization will also be subject to the USFWS PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION for the Bureau of Land Management Summer Activities in 2009 in Undeveloped Areas of the National petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Date May 31, 2009

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

"Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities."

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

Date May 31, 2009

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office